(Admission Matters)		(Regular Matters)	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
(Actual number of files)			
486	107	720	41

(b) and (c) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court is due to various complex factors and the Supreme Court has taken various steys to expedite the disposal of cases, which include more practical categorisation and classification of cases, stabilisation of Benches, avoiding delisting as far as possible, ensuring non-accumulation of defective matters and prompt listing of cases.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

2301. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 will apply only to cases where a request for reference to arbitration is received by respondent on or after 25th January, 1996;

(b) whether as a direct result of this claimants would be deprived of benefits of new Act in large number of cases where arbitrator has not been appointed under old Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to clarify that word "commenced" in Section 85(2)(a) of new Act means commencement of arbitral proceedings when an arbitrator indicates his willingness to act as arbitrator so as to give benefit of new Act to all persons going for arbitration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes; Sir.

However, if the parties have agreed so, the new Act will apply even in cases where such request has been received by respondent prior to 25 January, 1996.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) In view of the clear provisions contained in Section 85(2) read with Section 21 of the Act, no amendment is necesssary in the provision.

Election duty by employees of PSUs

2302. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has requested Government to empower the Commission to mobilise the employees of PSUs and autonomous bodies aided by Government for election duties as also to provide that employees of such bodies including local bodies could also be deployed for election duties outside their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) what action Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties.

(c) The proposal was included amongst the additional proposals on electoral reforms for being discussed with leaders of political partes. Some of the said proposals including this proposal, however, could not be discussed despite three rounds of discussions with leaders of political parties. The matter is under consideration and a Bill to give effect to the package of Electoral Reforms is likely to be introduced in the current session of Parliament.

Committee to look into Central and State Legislations

2303. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Group or Committee to go into the whole gamut of Central and State Legislations;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this Group/ Committee;

(c) whether any interim recommendations or observations have been made by the Group/Committee;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what is the total number of existing laws and the list thereof; and

(f) by when the Group/Committee is supposed to submit its final report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir, but only for the Central laws.

(b) The terms of reference of the Expert Group will be as follows—

(i) Indentification of laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed;

(ii) Identification of laws which are in harmony with the existing climate of economic liberalization which need no change;

(iii) Identification of laws which require changes or amendments and suggestions for amendments; and

(iv) Revision of rules, regulations, orders and notifications, etc.

(c) No, Sir,

(d) In view of the answer to (c), this does not arise.

(e) Total number of existing laws is 1069. The list of Central Acts will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) In three months time.

उच्च न्यायालयों में मुख्य न्यायाधीशों के रिक्त पद

2304. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव :**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या **विधि और न्याय मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में ऐसे उच्च न्यायालयों की संख्या कितनी है जहां मुख्य न्यायाधीश के पद रिक्त हैं ;

(ख) देश के किन-किन उच्च न्यायालयों में कितने-कितने न्यायाधीशों के पद रिक्त हैं और इन रिक्तियों के कारण न्यायिक कार्य अब तक किस हद तक प्रभावित हुआ है; और

(ग) सरकार उच्च न्यायालयों में मुख्य न्यायाधीश तथा अन्य न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति कब तक करेगी ?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामाकान्त डी. खलप) : (क) कलकत्ता, गुजरात और सिक्किम के उच्च न्यायालयों में 1-8-1997 को कार्यकारी मुख्य न्यायमूर्ति थे ।